

# Wilson May Go Before Congress with Strike Plea; Unions Prepare

## ITALY AT WAR WITH GERMANY AFTER TO-DAY

## Asks Switzerland to Inform Berlin of Her Action.

## STEP INEVITABLE FOR MONTHS

Rome, Aug. 27.—Italy declared war on Germany to-day.

Berlin (by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.), Aug. 27.—The following official announcement was made here to-day:

"The Italian government has declared through the Swiss government that it considers itself from August 28 at war with Germany."

Paris, Aug. 27.—A Havas dispatch from Rome gives a communication published by the Stefani Agency and addressed by the Italian government to the Swiss government. It requests the Swiss government to inform the German government that Italy considers herself at war with Germany from and after August 28.

## Italian Balkan Operations Made War Inevitable

Italy and Germany have been drifting steadily toward war. In fact, Italy's formal declaration amounts to little more than official recognition of a state of affairs which already existed. The declaration became inevitable when Italy recently sent troops to Salonica to co-operate in the campaign of the entente allies on the Macedonian front, inasmuch as Germany is directing the opposing forces and has troops on this battle line.

Italy's position in regard to Germany had been an anomalous one after Italy declared war on Germany. Italy was in a position of last year and declared war on Austria. Although by this act she arrayed herself on the side of the entente powers and against her former ally, Germany and Austria, she remained officially at peace with Germany until yesterday.

German Efforts in Italy.

Before Italy took this step Germany exerted every effort to induce her to remain neutral, sending to Rome as ambassador Prince von Bulow, former Chancellor and one of the ablest statesmen of Germany. The prince succeeded for some time in averting war between Austria and Italy, and when he saw that a rupture was inevitable he took steps toward bringing about a peace between Germany and Italy. On behalf of his government he negotiated with Italy a special agreement under which, in case of war between Austria and Italy, Germany and Italy pledged themselves to respect the properties and lives of their respective subjects in each other's domains. This meant for Germany a guarantee of many millions of dollars' worth of properties in Italy and for Italy the safety of 30,000 Italian subjects who were still living in Germany.

War Only Matter of Time.

According to unofficial reports from Europe, Italy's allies were dissatisfied with this state of affairs, and at the Paris council of entente powers in February last asked the Italian representatives why their nation was not at war with Germany. Italy had already agreed not to conclude a separate peace, and as a result of the Paris conference, sanctioned the plan for formation of a permanent high council of the entente powers for future conduct of the war.

The increasing cooperation among the entente allies, and the necessity for bringing into service Italy's surplus of troops, which could not be employed on the other fronts without bringing on war with Germany, gradually brought Italy into such a position that it became evident a declaration of hostilities against Germany was only a matter of time.

Italy Seizes German Ships.

The first overt act in this direction occurred shortly after the Paris conference, probably as a result of it. On February 29 Italy requisitioned thirty-four of the thirty-seven German steamships interned in Italian ports to help meet the pressing needs of the Allies for shipping facilities.

Other indications of approaching war have been observed in recent weeks. A German court ruled that Italy and Germany were actually, though not formally, at war. It was reported unofficially that Germany had taken charge of the defense of Trieste. A more definite indication was the severance last month of the last tie between the nations. The commercial agreement

## Woman Slain, Believed First Suffrage Martyr

Doctor Accused of Killing Wife After Her Speech at "Votes" Meeting—Attended Civic Clubs Against His Wishes.

(By Telegram to The Tribune.)

Marlington, W. Va., Aug. 27.—The mystery surrounding the death of Mrs. Frances Robertson Howard and the arrest of her husband on a charge made by a coroner's jury have led to the suspicion that the woman is the first person killed in the cause of woman suffrage.

Frances Robertson was head nurse at the Marlinton Hospital and she came of a distinguished Virginia family. Dr. Oliver Arnold Howard was a physician at the hospital, and their marriage was a hospital romance. A few months after marriage there were rumors that they did not agree. Sometimes Mrs. Howard appeared with a discolored eye, but she always explained it as an accident. She took up civic and club activities against the wishes of her husband.

On August 15 she attended a woman suffrage meeting, made her "first speech" and returned home apparently in good spirits.

She was not seen alive again. Witnesses say she returned home about 6:20 o'clock, and her husband is said to have arrived about twenty minutes later.

Within ten or fifteen minutes he ran down the steps of the building calling for another doctor. He asserted his wife was unconscious from some drug and asked for a strychnine injection to revive her. When Dr. J. W. Price arrived Mrs. Howard was dead. She lay on an unmade bed in a spare room, with her clothing disarranged and her slippers beside her.

Her face wore an expression of fear. There were marks on the left side of her neck and her nose appeared bruised. Dr. Howard asserted he had found his wife locked in the spare room, lying on the bed, and that he believed she had been violently nauseated. He said he slapped her face in an effort to revive her, and when this failed ran for another physician.

Doctors who became suspicious questioned the undertaker, who testified that the woman's neck seemed to be broken.

The verdict of the coroner's jury was that Mrs. Howard had come to her death "from violence, to wit, a dislocation of the neck," and that "with the evidence produced before us there is probable cause to believe that the said act of violence was committed at the hands of Oliver A. Howard."

Dr. Howard was arrested and charged with the murder. He protests his innocence.

## "LUCIA" IS SUNG AFTER A RIOT

Mob Scene Added to Opera in Grand St. Theatre as Receipts Disappear.

An Italian audience in the Grand Street Theatre last night supplied the opera "Lucia di Lammermoor" with a mob scene, a particular which Cammarano overlooked when he wrote the book for the piece.

It will be well, however, for maestros who anticipate a production of the opera along these new lines to have a few building inspectors go over the opera house before they call rehearsals. It is not every home of the singing drama that is built to withstand such strenuous "business." That the Grand Street playhouse wasn't brought tumbling down in the last act, at least, is a credit to the sturdy construction of the box office window in the Grand Street Theatre, but Antonio is elsewhere just now. It is said that about eight hundred dollars' worth of receipts disappeared in the last act.

The alleged disappearance of Antonio and the \$160 had much to do with the new mob scene.

Announcement Starts Trouble.

Two hundred Italians were in their seats to witness the performance, which was to raise money for the Italian blind. The director was ready for the curtain when there appeared behind the footlights Enrico. Enrico bore a troubled look, and he was not worrying about having to stab himself to death in the last act, either.

Enrico, in Italian, briefly announced that Delloroca, the cashier, had disappeared, also all the cash, and that there would be no opera.

No need for thunder in the wings. The mob scene was sufficient in itself. In the mad push and scramble for the box office seats were broken, top hats smashed, powder torn and the less sturdy music-lovers of the night knocked down and trampled.

An alarm was sent to the nearest police station and six detectives hastened to the scene in an automobile. Detectives and outraged opera fans mixed it generally, with no noticeable abatement in the mob action until Seliciano Acierno, of 948 Third Street, The Bronx, was able to make himself heard.

Acierno, who is wealthy, pleaded for silence.

"Return to your seats," he told the throng. "I have offered each member of the cast, the chorus, the orchestra and the stage hands \$2 apiece to go ahead with the performance, and, generously, they have accepted."

Acierno then added he would see what could be done toward raising a fund for the Italian blind. And, so, revolutionized and rejuvenated, the performance of "Lucia" proceeded along the lines laid down originally by Sir Walter Scott.

## 300 FANS SEE BOLT KILL BOY BALL PLAYER

Lightning Fells Batter and Catcher on Staten Island.

"Strike one!" cried a treble-voiced boy umpire yesterday afternoon on the baseball field of the Mission of the Immaculate Conception, an orphan asylum at Richmond Valley, Staten Island. The words still quavered in the air when there was a flash of lightning that dazzled the 300 boy and girl spectators and a clap of thunder that shook the ground.

Joseph Harding, the ten-year-old batsman, dropped in the midst of his swing and Frank Ferri, the catcher, fell beside him. The ball was firmly clutched in Ferri's glove when they picked him up. Harding was killed outright by the bolt, but Ferri will recover.

## W. R. GRACE'S HOUSE AT WESTBURY BURNS

Newly Purchased Home Is a Complete Loss.

Westbury, Long Island, Aug. 27.—William R. Grace's newly purchased home here was burned to-night, with a loss of \$30,000. Until two months ago it was occupied by Raymond T. Neilson, portrait painter, and much of his valuable furniture was still in the house and was destroyed.

Residents of Wheatley Hills and surrounding towns saw the blaze and hastened to the spot in automobiles. The building was an old one and went up like tinder. There was no chance to save anything.

Charles P. Murphy, a chauffeur, who was acting as temporary caretaker, was away, and the origin of the fire is unknown.

## GREEK RULER GIVES WAY TO WAR PARTY

Intervention Near—Rumania Ready To Act.

## BULGARS SEIZE KAVALA FORTS

Gain in Albania—British Warships Join in the Battle.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Aug. 27.—Evidence that both Greece and Rumania are on the point of joining the Allies overshadowed the actual fighting in the Balkans to-day, though all but one of the Kavalas forts were seized by the Bulgars, who were then bombarded by British warships. The Bulgars also extended their lines in Albania, and there was heavy but indecisive fighting along the part of the front held by the Serbian army. Each side reports the repulse of attacks.

The Bulgarian seizure of the Greek territory east of the Struma, which has caused the wildest resentment among the Greek people, has at last affected the government. King Constantine, a firm friend of the Kaiser, has been forced to dismiss General Dousmanis, Chief of the General Staff, and Colonel Metaxas, his chief assistant, who were opposed to Greek intervention on the side of the Allies. He has appointed as Chief of Staff General Constantine Mouschopoulos, a close friend of former Premier Venizelos, the champion of intervention.

General Dousmanis has been given a five days' leave of absence. Colonel Metaxas goes to the war college.

Foresee Greek Intervention.

General Mouschopoulos has been in command of the Greek forces at Salonica and is thus in close touch with the Allied commanders. Dispatches from Athens say that the appointment of so open a friend of the Allies to the chief command has caused great excitement and that there is rejoicing among those who hope for vigorous resistance to Bulgaria and cooperation with the Allied armies.

Rumania, which is powerfully influenced by Italy's declaration of war on Germany, is even nearer war, according to dispatches from Bucharest. A decision is possible within twenty-four hours. The King has called a council unique in the history of the nation. Representatives of all the political parties, former premiers, former presidents, ministers, government representatives and agents and representative business men have been summoned. The great national council will begin its meeting at 5 o'clock to-morrow, and on its decision is likely to rest the fate of Rumania's entrance into the war or a further delay till even the present risks have disappeared.

Crisis in Austria-Hungary.

The developments in the Balkans appear to be causing perturbation in Austria-Hungary, dispatches from Vienna say. There is a serious political crisis in Hungary, the opposition leaders having demanded a coalition cabinet, which demand the Emperor has refused to comply with.

In addition to all night sittings of the Hungarian chamber, the dispatches add, an Austrian Cabinet Council sat for eight hours Thursday and six hours Friday and the Hungarian Cabinet for nine hours Thursday and ten hours Friday.

Heavy fighting is still in progress in Macedonia, from the region of Lake Ochrida eastward to Kavala, but with results beclouded by the varying statements of the Berlin and Paris War offices.

Bulgars Extend Lines.

Berlin reports that Bulgarian forces

## EDISON'S READY TO GO, BUT WHERE IS FORD?

Auto Man Fails to Show Up for Camping Trip.

William B. Firestone, of Akron, Ohio, has lost his trunk, and Henry Ford, of Detroit, apparently has lost himself, but this doesn't disturb Thomas A. Edison, of West Orange, N. J., who starts to-day for the Adirondack Mountains. Mr. Firestone and Mr. Ford were to have gone with him.

Mr. Edison was abed early last night, but not until he had made one last inspection of the big motor truck in his garage which contains his camping paraphernalia.

"I want to see that it's all there," he said, "for in the morning I'm going to be on the road at 7, and I don't want to be running around looking for a misplaced skillet."

Mr. Edison was not deeply concerned over the word that Mr. Firestone's lost trunk had delayed the automobile tire magnate. Mr. Firestone will join the inventor on the way north. Henry Ford failed to put in his appearance somewhere between West Orange and New York, and Mr. Edison is confident he will show up.

John Burroughs, naturalist, who is to be a fourth member of the camping party, will be picked up at Roxbury.

## Theodora Booth Would Suffer Plague to Save Children



MISS THEODORA BOOTH.

Daughter of Ballington Booth Writes Tribune Offering to Submit to Inoculation in Interest of Humanity—Doctors Adverse to Experiment.

Miss Theodora Booth, daughter of General Ballington Booth, is willing that New York scientists should inoculate her with infantile paralysis virus and that she should pass through every stage of the disease under their care if her sacrifice will aid in the battle against the great plague.

Her unusual offer, made first in a personal letter to the editor of The Tribune, was reaffirmed yesterday at her father's home, in Blue Point, Long Island. She had just returned from a sail on Great South Bay, and her bright blue eyes, thick hair, deeply tanned cheeks and sunny smile made her a glorious picture of youth and happiness.

There was nothing of boastfulness in

## TWO RACERS DIE; 12 CARS WRECKED

Jack Peacock Among the Victims at Michigan Track.

Kalamazoo, Mich., Aug. 27.—Two men were killed and eight others injured, one of them fatally, when eleven of fourteen automobiles piled up at the first turn during the 100-mile race at Recreation Park, here to-day. The dead are Marion Arnold, mechanic, Chicago; Jack Peacock, driver, Brooklyn, both hips broken and head crushed. He died in the hospital. The man probably fatally injured is F. E. Marquette, Kalamazoo, mechanic for Peacock. His head is injured and his left leg broken in three places. He is unconscious.

Peacock's car, leading in the race, skidded and struck the fence at the first turn. It was overturned and thrown squarely across the track. Before track attendants could signal the other drivers, ten of the machines going at a terrific clip plunging into the overturned car. Five of them were completely demolished.

The car driven by Andy Burt, whose mechanic, Marion Arnold, was killed, was the first to strike that of Peacock's. Nine others came into the wreckage a moment later.

To-day's accident is the worst that has occurred at Recreation Park since 1911, when Lee Oldfield's racing car ploughed through the fence and killed eight persons.

## KAISER DEFERS PUNISHMENTS

Won't Execute Sentences Imposed on French Prisoners Until After War.

Berlin (by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.), Aug. 27.—The following official statement was issued here to-day:

"The German Emperor has ordered postponement until after the war of the execution of all sentences imposed for the punishment of French prisoners, both civilian and military, on account of acts committed up to September 1 of this year."

## BROTHERHOOD LEADERS READY TO TIE UP LINES

Delegates Leave for Home with Secret Code Ready to Flash Word if Break Comes.

## PRESIDENT TO ASK ROADS TO-DAY FOR MORE DELAY

In Meantime Executives Are Preparing for War—Unions Expect to Keep Certain Trains Running at All Events.

[From a Staff Correspondent of The Tribune.]

Washington, Aug. 27.—The four railway brotherhoods have set in motion the wheels of a nation-wide strike. All the union delegates except the four chiefs and a handful of their lieutenants left Washington to-day with two envelopes in their pockets. One of them contained a circular of instructions to be followed if the threatened strike is called. The other, a sealed one, contained the union code. That envelope is not to be opened until the delegates receive from the four brotherhood heads a code message setting the hour to strike.

In the meantime tentative plans for a joint session of the Senate and House to hear President Wilson ask for legislation to prevent the threatened nation-wide railroad strike were discussed by the President with Senator Kern, the Democratic leader, to-night, when it seemed virtually certain that a break between the railroads and their employees must follow final conferences at the White House to-morrow.

All Depends on To-day's Meeting.

Whether the plans considered by President Wilson and his advisers at the Capitol will be carried out depends upon to-morrow's developments, but it is understood that if all efforts fail to bring the employers and their men together the President will go before Congress and ask that it deal with the situation, even if that necessitates indefinitely prolonging the present session.

## READY TO FACE STRIKE, SAYS REA

Yielding Only Temporary Postponement, Asserts P. R. R. President.

Washington, Aug. 27.—Samuel Rea, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad, issued a statement to-night, which, for the first time since the executives decided upon the course they would pursue, flatly announced that rather give up arbitration they regarded it as better to face a strike. He declared that for the railroads to yield would result in a temporary, but probably not a permanent, postponement of the strike, and that the issue of arbitration at stake in the present situation would be left unsettled.

"These in brief," continued his statement, "are the reasons why the heads of the railways, with a full appreciation of the solemn and weighty responsibility resting on them, as well as of their duty to the public and to their shareholders, have been forced to the conclusion that it is better to face the alternative of a strike than to surrender."

Mr. Rea went on to point out the history of the struggles between railroads and their employees, and spoke of the depression which he said the railroads had experienced recently. He said that now, since they were having their first real touch of prosperity for several years, they were confronted with demands which would mean, when followed by like demands from their other employees, an added burden of from \$200,000,000 to \$300,000,000 a year.

"Confronted by such conditions," he concluded, "and borne down by a solemn sense of their responsibility to their employees, to business interests of all kinds, to the 100,000,000 people of the United States and to their stockholders, what could the heads of the railways do but refuse to yield, and then calmly but resolutely face the possibilities of the situation in the full confidence that their action will receive the unqualified indorsement and support of the business interests of the country and the public at large, who have as yet been denied all opportunity to be heard?"

Employees Act Promptly.

The employees carried out their ultimatum on schedule time. Their meeting this morning resulted in a resolution giving the four brotherhood chiefs, Austin B. Garretson, Warren S. Stone, W. G. Lee and W. S. Carter, power to act for the entire 640 delegates. They are to carry the negotiations with President Wilson to a conclusion. The President communicated with them and received that assurance. But the four union officials have no power to accept anything that does not concede to the employees a basic eight-hour day.

Crisis Expected To-day.

It would seem to-night that the country's chances of avoiding a tie-up of all the roads involved—and that means every great transportation system from coast to coast—depend on the outcome of to-morrow's meeting between the President and the railroad executives. President Wilson has an appointment with the railroad presidents at 10 o'clock. They intend to present to him their counter proposal for settling the controversy. Whether he will let them proceed with that plan of action remains to be seen.

The President apparently is bent upon exhausting every means at his command to effect an acceptance by the roads of his original proposal before considering the alternative plan prepared by the railway executives. He knows that it will not be acceptable to the unions. It does not grant the men the eight-hour basic day that his proposal conceded them. It would submit the whole controversy to arbitration. Therefore it is expected that the President will ask the roads to delay

Leipzig Opens Annual Fair.

Berlin, Aug. 27 (by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.).—The autumn fair at Leipzig was opened yesterday. The number of exhibitors is 2,600, which is larger than is usual, even in times of peace. A new section has been added for the display of foodstuffs.

### Incidentally

Garet Garrett is primarily a writer for the man who wants basic facts expressed intelligently. But Garet Garrett is incidentally a writer who can make his writing as entertaining as it is instructive.

That is what makes The Tribune financial page more than accurate. It makes it interesting—and unusual. It makes it worth your reading this morning—and every morning.

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